

Fast Blast

January 11, 2008



Our Mission

"Make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians"



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2008-09 California Budget

A warm New Year's greeting to all. Governor Schwarzenegger released his annual January 10 Budget Proposal. The following is a summary of the Governor's Proposed 2008-09 Budget:

Cal Grant Program:

- The Entitlement program includes funding increases for the growth in new High School Entitlement awards, an increase in new CCC Transfer Entitlement awards, and system wide fee increases for UC and CSU.
- The proposed elimination of new Cal Grant Competitive awards will result in a \$57.4 million decrease in funding. Renewal awards would not be affected.
- \$80 million increase for Cal Grants as a placeholder amount in the event the UC and CSU raise fees beyond the segments' anticipated fee levels. This amount is subject to adjustment after the governing boards take final action in context of potential reductions to balance the budget.
- The maximum award amount for non-public institutions remains at \$9,708.

Cal-SOAP Program:

- Reduction of \$637,000 in the California Student Opportunity

and Access Program as part of the 10 percent budget balancing reduction. The proposed 2008-09 appropriation for Cal-SOAP is \$5.7 million.

APLE Programs:

- The number of Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE) awards is reduced by 10 percent, or 800 awards, for a revised total of 7,200 new awards in 2008-09.
- 100 new awards for both the State Nursing APLE program and the Nurses in State Facilities APLE program.

Cash For College Program:

- \$200,000 in new Federal fund authority for the Cash for College Program. This amount reflects funds anticipated from the new College Access Challenge Grant Program authorized in HR 2669 for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 federal fiscal years.

Commission's Operations:

- Impact from the anticipated sale of EDFUND.
- Increase of \$2 million and 11 positions to enable the Commission to reestablish essential core business and technology services previously provided by EDFUND.



- Elimination of a total of 56.8 civil service positions assigned to the Commission's Federal Policy and Programs Division (6) and EDFUND (50.8).
- Reduction of \$1.6 million to

In This Issue:

- 2008-09 Governor's Proposed Budget
- Vital Annual College Cost Estimate Information Due to Commission by January 16
- CSAC Welcomes New Commissioners
- Cal Grant Program Manual Update Begins
- 2008 Electronic GPA Submission Training
- Top 10 List: Cal Grants
- Public Awareness Campaign

continued on p. 3

2008-09 California Budget (continued from p. 2)

Commission operations as part of the 10 percent budget balancing reduction.

- \$130,000 in new Federal fund authority for the Cash for College Program. This amount reflects funds anticipated from the new College Access Challenge Grant Program authorized in HR 2669 for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 federal fiscal years.

EDFUND Sale:

- The anticipated revenue from the sale of EDFUND has been reduced from \$1 billion to \$500 million.

As always, our door is open to any questions or comments you may have on the latest budget developments. We can be reached at (888) 294-0153.

Vital Annual College Cost Estimate Information Due to Commission by January 16

The Commission initially determines the financial need and award amounts for Cal Grant participants enrolling at your school by analyzing the information you provide in the College Cost Estimate Information form.

With Cal Grant Entitlement award announcements for 2008-09 beginning in February 2008, it is critical that the Commission receives any changes to your schools cost of attendance information by Wednesday, January 16. Outdated information could disadvantage some students in the determination of their financial need and may impact their ability to be selected for a Cal Grant award.

We encourage you to use WebGrants to submit your college cost information. This electronic process allows us to review and approve the data reported before the changes are used for processing. As an alternative, hard copies of the form may be submitted and must be **received no later than Wednesday, January 16. (Please take note of this date as it is fast approaching.)**

Additional information on the Annual College Cost Estimate Information Request and how to obtain copies of the College Cost Estimate form, the Nine-Month Student expense Budgets and the Income and Asset Ceilings for 2008-09 can be found in **Operations Memo #GOM 2007-34** at www.csac.ca.gov/secured/operationmemos/2007.asp.

CSAC Welcomes New Commissioners

I am pleased to announce the recent appointments of six new Commissioners to the California Student Aid Commission.

Enrique G. Murillo, Jr., Ph.D., of San Bernardino, is an associate professor in the Department of Language, Learning and Literacy at California State University, San Bernardino. He is also the

editor of the Journal of Latinos and Education and the editor of the Handbook of Latinos and Education. He is also a senior fellow at the Center for Equity in Education and serves as the National Coordinator for the National Latino Education Network. He received a BA in Psychology from the University

of California, Los Angeles, an MA in Educational Foundations at California State University, Los Angeles, and PhD in Social Foundations of Education from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Murillo was appointed by Speaker of the Assembly Fabian Núñez (D-Los Angeles). The effective date of his

continued on p. 4

CSAC Welcomes New Commissioners (continued from p. 3)

term appointment was January 1, 2008 and the expiration date is January 1, 2012. Dr. Murillo is a Democrat.

Tomas Arciniega, 70, of Valley Center, has served as special assistant to California State University Chancellor Charles Reed since 2004. From 1983 to 2004, Arciniega was president and professor of education at California State University, Bakersfield. Previously, he served as vice president for academic affairs and professor of educational administration at California State University, Fresno from 1980 to 1983 and dean of education and professor of educational administration at San Diego State University from 1973 to 1980. Prior to joining the California State University system, Arciniega held several positions at the University of Texas at El Paso and the University of New Mexico. He is a member of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities and the American Council on Education. This position requires Senate confirmation. Arciniega is a Democrat.

Lynne de Bie, 55, of Dixon, has worked within the Dixon Unified School District since 1978 and currently is a counselor at Dixon High School. Additionally, de Bie has served as a student affairs officer II of application review for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of California, Berkeley since 2003. She previously served as a teacher at Dixon High School from 1978 to 1982. From 2001 to 2002, de Bie was a high school liaison counselor for Solano Community College. She is a member of the California School Counselors Association, California Teachers Association, Dixon Teachers Association and National Education Association. She is a former member of the University of California Office of the President High School Counselors Advisory Council where she served from 1992 to 1995. This position requires Senate confirmation. De Bie is a Democrat.

Patricia Fong Kushida, 48, of Sacramento, currently serves as president and chief executive officer for the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce where she has worked since 1998. Fong Kushida previously was a buyer for Pavilion Collections from 1994 to 1998 and Federated Department Stores, Macy's division from 1990 to 1994. Prior to that, she served as a buyer for Carter-Hawley Hale from 1985 to 1990. Fong Kushida is a member of the California Utilities Diversity Council and the California Community Colleges Economic & Workforce Development Advisory Committee. She also serves as chair of the Sutter Medical Center Community Benefits Committee. This position requires Senate confirmation. Fong Kushida is a Democrat.

Peter Hankwitz, 39, of Northridge, founded Peter Hankwitz Production & Management in 2000 and currently serves as executive producer. Hankwitz previously was client manager and co-founder of Starbar Entertainment Incorporated from 1999 to 2000 and held the same positions for Reburn & Hankwitz Creative Agency from 1993 to 1996. He also served as a talent manager for Michael McLean & Associates from 1988 to 1993 and held the same position from 1996 to 1998. Hankwitz served as a casting coordinator for Diane Dimeo Casting from 1988 to 1991. Additionally, he has been a guest lecturer on management and communications since 2001 and has lectured for the Los Angeles Unified School District, University of Southern California and Pepperdine University. Hankwitz is a co-founder of the Robert Urich Foundation for Cancer Research and Patient Care and is a past community advocate for the Yucca Corridor Gang Abatement Project in Los Angeles. He is a member of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and The Next Generation Council of the Motion Picture & Television Fund. This position requires Senate confirmation. Hankwitz is a Republican.

continued on p. 5

CSAC Welcomes New Commissioners (continued from p. 4)

Bonaparte Liu, 37, of Newport Coast, has served as managing director for the private equity investment company Labrador Capital. Liu previously was manager of business development for VIASPACE Technologies in 2001 and senior manager of business development for iExchange.com in 2000. From 1997 to 1999, he served as principal of Equinox Investment Partners. Prior to that, Liu served as an investment banker at Lehman Brothers from 1995 to 1997. This position requires Senate confirmation. Liu is a Democrat.

We welcome the new Commission members as they join their colleagues on the Commission at this time of change and transition. In addition to welcoming the new Commissioners, I also want to thank our former Commissioners who served the students of California with unprecedented leadership and unwavering commitment throughout their tenure at the California Student Aid Commission.

Biographies were acquired through press releases by The Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger, The Honorable Speaker Fabian Núñez, and Commission staff.

Cal Grant Program Manual Update Begins

We are pleased to announce that our Cal Grant Program Manual (previously revised in 2005) is once again being updated. The first chapter to be reviewed, Chapter 12 – Commission Communications, is now available in draft for schools to review at www.csac.ca.gov (select “Schools,” then “Colleges”). The non-sequential release of draft chapters has been planned to coincide with the processing and disbursement of Cal Grants when the information would be most useful to schools.

As part of our effort to acquire more feedback from schools, we are encouraging schools to review each draft chapter for clarity on the policies and procedures in the administration of Cal Grants.

Please send your suggestions or recommendations no later than January 31, 2008, to Lori Nezhura at Inezhura@csac.ca.gov or to Mona Stolz at mstolz@csac.ca.gov. If you have any questions about the revision process, please call Lori at (916) 526-7261 or Mona at (916) 526-7383.

Cash for College Workshop Regional Contacts

In January and February, students and their families have the opportunity to attend a free local Cash for College Workshop to help them fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Cal Grant GPA verification form, both of which are required for Cal Grants.

Cash for College is designed to help low-income and first-generation college bound students complete the application process so they can access financial aid for education and career/technical training beyond high school.

You can find out about regionally coordinated Cash for College efforts across California by contacting Regional Coordinating Organizations serving the following coverage areas:

* Far North State: Butte, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity Counties. Contact Marylee Boales, Shasta Union High School District, mboales@suhsd.net

* Capitol Area: Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Contact Monica Roberts, Sacramento Cal-SOAP/ Cash for

continued on pg. 6

Cash for College Workshop Regional Contacts (continued from p. 5)

College Coalition, mroberts@scoe.net

* East Bay Area: Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Contact Denise Little, East Bay Cal-SOAP/Cash for College Coalition, denise@eastbayconsortium.org

* South San Joaquin Valley: Kern and Kings Counties. Contact Frank Ramirez, UC Merced, Bakersfield Center, framirez7@ucmerced.edu

* Los Angeles: Los Angeles County. Contact Alma Salazar, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, asalazar@lachamber.org

* San Diego: San Diego and Imperial Counties. Contact Linda Doughty, San Diego Cal-SOAP Consortium, ldoughty@ucsd.edu.

2008 Electronic GPA Submission Training

On January 7, the Commission kicked off a successful week of training for the online 2008 Electronic GPA Submission Webcast sessions to support schools that want to learn more about the electronic GPA submission process.

Participants were provided a start-to-finish overview of the electronic upload process and learned the benefits of uploading GPA's electronically. The training provided information on how to change files after they have already been submitted and

pointers on how to avoid common mistakes.

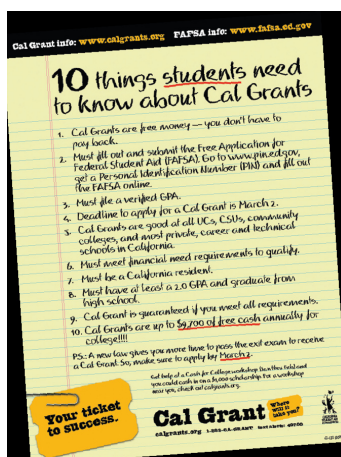
The next training sessions will be held during the week of February 4, 2008. Participants will have the convenience of logging on from their office or home computer for each hour long session.

During training, participants may also submit questions via a "chat" feature. If you are interested in registering for an upcoming session, go to www.csac.ca.gov/webshopReg.asp. Registration is on a first-come first-served basis and logon space

is limited. However, schools may dial-in from a single phone line in a conference room and view the presentation from a single Internet connection.

Additional information about the 2008 Electronic GPA Submission Training can be found in Operations Memo GOM 2007-35 at www.csac.ca.gov/secured/operationmemos/2007.asp or by contacting Charles Johnson at 916.526.7976 or cjohnson@csac.ca.gov

Top 10 List: Cal Grants



With this issue of Fast Blast, we introduce a new series in which we spotlight one of our financial aid publications.

This month's featured publication, *10 Things Students Need to Know about Cal Grants* (G-121A), is a two-sided flyer (English and Spanish) that lists 10 key points high school seniors

need to know about Cal Grants, including the main requirements to qualify. The catchy design features a modern type font on a yellow sheet of lined school paper with the most important information underlined in red. We also offer *10 Things Parents Need to Know About Cal Grants* (G-123), its counterpart for parents.

continued on pg. 7

Top 10 List: Cal Grants (continued from p. 6)

These handouts are included in the College Cash Box. Please share these handouts with your students. Additional copies may be ordered by calling 916.526.7282 or faxing your request to 916.526.8838. You'll find a publications order form with all of our materials at www.csac.ca.gov/doc.asp?id=23

Public Awareness Campaign

The Commission's Cal Grant Public Awareness Campaign is in full swing. More than 4,500 College Cash Boxes have been distributed to help get the word out about financial aid. The College Cash Box includes helpful information for counselors, financial aid administrators, students and their parents. If you need additional material, send your orders to:

California Student Aid
Commission Shipping Center,
2431 Mercantile Dr. #E
Rancho Cordova CA 95742

Shipping Center Fax:
916.526.8838

Shipping Center Phone:
916.526.7282

Two press events:

In our ongoing effort to reach students with the Cal Grant message and boost the state's college and postsecondary entrance rates, the Public Awareness Campaign will host a press event on January 16 in Sacramento at Luther Burbank High School. A second

press event will take place in Los Angeles in February. The specific date, time, and location will be announced in an upcoming Fast Blast.

3 call-in events:

Commission staff and volunteers will be on hand at KCRA from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m., Wednesday, January 23, to answer callers' questions on financial aid. Students and their families will have English and Spanish speaking staff members on hand to assist them in taking the necessary first steps towards a successful postsecondary education. The Commission will host a call-in show in Fresno on January 24, and A Su Lado, a Spanish-language television call-in show in Los Angeles, will host a call in program on January 30.

Radio/Television:

Beginning in January, the Public Awareness Campaign will run English and Spanish radio and television spots throughout major portions of the state.

College Cash Crew Captains:

College Cash Crew Captains have been selected and are ready to go. These Captains are college students or recent college graduates and previous Cal Grant recipients. As media spokespersons, the four Captains will help spread the word out about the Cal Grant program by speaking to students on a peer-to-peer level.

Calgrants.org:

FAFSA on the Web video is now showing on calgrants.org. The video, in English and Spanish, gives students step-by-step instructions on how to apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can also view the new TV and radio campaign commercials at calgrants.org.